

Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Kent

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Transportation and Infrastructure
Representative Wayne Schmidt, Chairman

Testimony on HB 5167

Kent County Road Commission
Steve Warren, Managing Director

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Managing Director

Gerald J. Byrne
Deputy Managing
Director - Operations

Wayne A. Harraill
Deputy Managing
Director - Engineering

John L. Strauss
Director of Finance

The Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) supports the efforts of the Michigan Legislature to seek a long-term increase in transportation funding to enhance the quality of our roads and bridges for the citizens we serve.

KCRC's goal has been and will continue to be to provide quality transportation facilities and services to Kent County in the safest and most cost effective manner possible.

In our opinion, the proposed requirements in HB 5167 requiring that we privatize twenty-percent of our system is not consistent with that goal and limits our Board's ability to make sound business decisions in the best interests of our constituents. Therefore, KCRC opposes this proposed legislation.

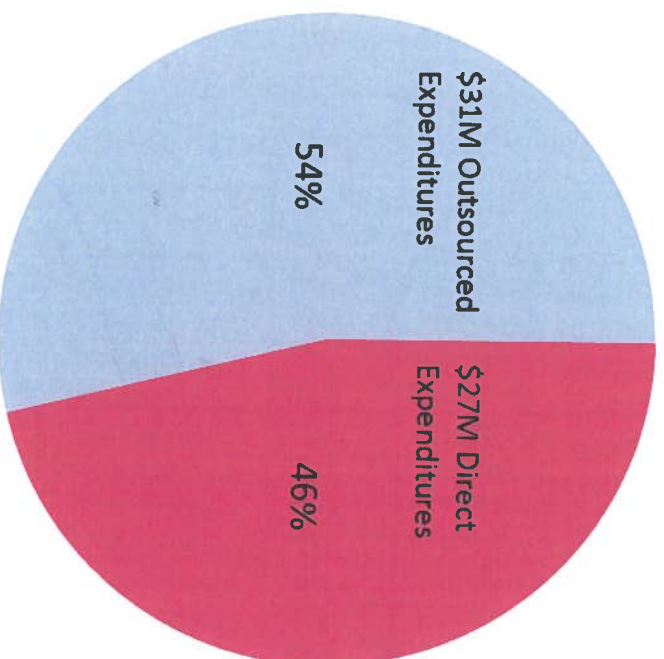
KCRC's record of good governance and efficiency:

- FY2013 outsource 54% (\$31.4M) of expenditures
- Privatize activities formerly performed by KCRC including:
 - Snowplowing 1000 cul-de-sacs \$ 200,000
 - Catch Basin Cleaning \$ 232,000
 - Street Sweeping \$ 389,000
 - Pavement Marking \$ 780,000
 - Aggregate Production \$ 73,000
 - Dust Control Services \$ 185,000
- Eliminated pension plan in 1987, adopted Defined Contribution Plan.
- Employees pay a portion of their health care according to the Hard Cap.
- No long-term debt.
- One of the lowest overhead rates in the state.

HB 5167 will:

- Complicates coordination of emergency response and therefore may threaten public safety
- Increase overhead costs for contract administration

Kent County Road Commission Fiscal Year 2013 Expenditures of \$58 Million



Currently Outsourced

- Aggregate Production
- Asphalt Paving Projects
- Auction Services
- Barrier Wall Construction
- Box culvert placement
- Bridge Deck Rehabilitation / Replacement
- Building Demolition
- Building Maintenance
- Catch Basin Cleaning Services
- Concrete Curb & Gutter Construction Services
- Concrete Cutting Services
- Concrete Joint Repair Services
- Construction Engineering Services
- Culvert Repairs
- Dust Control Services
- Fuel tank replacement services
- Furnish & Haul aggregates
- Hydro-seeding & Mulching
- Janitorial Services
- Landscape Services
- Micro-surfacing services
- Pavement Marking Services
- Pipe (underground) relining services
- Refuse Disposal Services
- Road Reconstruction
- Roadside Seeding Services
- Rotomilling services
- Sand for winter maintenance
- Sealcoat Stone for Chipseal Program
- Snow Plowing Service – 15 areas
- Street Lighting
- Street Sweeping Services
- Traffic Controls rental & services
- Traffic Signs
- Trucking Services

PARTIAL LIST OF MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

Surface Maintenance

Pothole repair, crack sealing, chipsealing, micro-surfacing, full-depth concrete joint replacement, spray injection patching, gravel road grading, dustlayer, washout repair, sand, mud, low area repair.

Trees and Brush

Dead tree removal, hi-ranger trimming, stump removal, stump grinding, brush cutting, hand trimming around guardrail, culverts, and bridges.

Drainage

Culvert repair, culvert replacement, ditching cleaning, catch basin cleaning, underground pipe cleaning, pipe inspection (video), catchbasin and manhole repair, soil erosion and sedimentation controls.

Roadside Clean-up

Trash, dead animals (3000+ deer annually), unlawful right-of-way encroachments, tires, Adopt-a-Road pickup.

Grass and Weed

Roadside mowing (wheel and tracked equipment), clear vision areas.

Guardrail

Replacing, repair, upgrading beam guardrails.

Sweeping

Provide pickup and kick-off sweeping, curbed, valley gutters, and intersections.

Shoulder Maintenance

Grade, add aggregate material, compact, and apply dustlayer.

Winter Maintenance

Apply chemicals and abrasive materials, blading, plowing, winging ice and snow from the travel lanes and shoulders. Apply anti-icing chemicals in advance of storm to bridges. Use of motorgraders, snow blowers, loaders along with various other pieces of equipment as needed.

Structure Maintenance

Repair of fixed structures including footings, abutments, wingwalls, piers, superstructure and railing; resurfacing of bridge decks, channel clearance; repair of riprapping, washouts, protective piling, and retaining walls. This activity includes culverts or multiple culverts that total greater than twenty feet in span.

Traffic Signs

Cleaning, repairing, and refinishing official highway signs and sign posts; furnishing and installing replacement signs, and maintenance of railroad crossing signs.

Traffic Signals

Repair and replacement of traffic signals including "Walk" lights and railroad crossing warning devices and signal; payment to railroad companies for signal maintenance and expense for electrical energy for traffic signals, illuminated highway signs, and special cases of highway lighting.

Roadway Inspection - Twenty-four hour, seven days a week

Provides visual road inspections, responds to calls for signal from law enforcement, fire services, EMS, weather, accidents, and citizen complaint driven.